

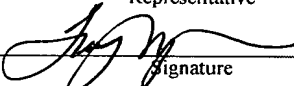
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Application of: Akira TSUBOUCHI, Kiyoshi OKUBO and Yasushi  
WATANABE  
For: HOLLOW RACK SHAFT AND  
MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF  
Confirmation No.: 8523  
U.S. Serial No.: 09/994,526  
Filed: November 27, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 3683  
Examiner: Devon C. Kramer  
Date Allowed: March 8, 2004

**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: <b>MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE</b> , Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on |   |
| <u>MAY 27, 2004</u>  | Date of Deposit   |
| <u>TUNG T. NGUYEN</u>  | Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative |
| <u></u>  | Signature   |
| <u>MAY 27, 2004</u>  | Date of Signature   |

**SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION**

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe that I am the first and original (if only one name appears below) inventor of the above-identified U.S. application, including the amendments thereto in the Amendment of August 8, 2003 and the Preliminary Amendment of February 16, 2004.

Serial No.: 09/994,526

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by the amendments referred to above; and

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119/365 of any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate as listed below or of any PCT international application, designating at least one country other than the United States of America, as listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application, designating at least one country other than the United States of America, directed to said invention or discovery and having a filing date before that of the applications on which priority is claimed:

| <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>COUNTRY</u> | <u>DATE FILED</u> | <u>PRIORITY CLAIMED</u><br>(Yes) (No) |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2000-383268   | Japan          | December 18, 2000 | X                                     |

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Serial No.: 09/994,526

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First Middle Last  
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Serial No.: 09/994,526

Full name of third joint inventor:

|   |                  |                 |
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